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- I. Claims 1, 10, 13-19, drawn to a first method, a method of treating a subject with sickle cell disease comprising administering an antiviral agent;
- II. Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 12, drawn to a second method, a method of inhibiting polymerization of hemoglobin comprising contacting the hemoglobin with an antiviral agent;
- III. Claims 5 and 11, drawn to a third method, a method of determining whether an antiviral agent is capable of treating a subject afflicted with sickle cell disease;
- IV. Claim 6, drawn to a fourth method, a method of determining whether an antiviral agent is capable of inhibiting sickling of a cell; and
- V. Claim 7, drawn to a fifth method, a method of determining whether an antiviral agent is capable of inhibiting the polymerization of hemoglobin.

In response, applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1, 10 and 13-19, drawn to a method of treating a subject with sickle cell disease comprising administering an antiviral agent, with traverse for prosecution at this time.

The Examiner also stated that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: acyclovir and valacylovir.

In response, applicants hereby elect the species of acyclovir in the event no generic claim is finally deemed allowable.